

## **REPORT OF VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION – HOSPICE**

VNA – Hospice is entering its 60<sup>th</sup> year as a health care provider in this region. We have over 70 employees and many wonderful volunteers who work as a team member to provide quality home health care to the residents of Alton, Brookfield, Effingham, Freedom, Moultonboro, Ossipee, Sandwich, Tamworth, Tuftonboro, Wakefield, and Wolfeboro. We are a not-for-profit agency that is licensed by the state of New Hampshire. Our home health program and our hospice care program are medical certified.

We are privileged to provide residents of Alton with services from all three of our programs during the last year. The agency's staff made a total of 35,591 visits during the year. Of those visits, 5,875 were made to Alton residents. This included 4,381 home care visits, 738 Hospice care visits, and 756 maternal/child health visits.

This is the age of computerization. The VNA-Hospice was the first Agency in this region to provide tele-health monitoring to its patients. This is a small monitor that is put into a patient's home. Each day the patient sits down and has his/her blood pressure, pulse, oxygen levels, and other vital statistics as necessary checked. The information is then sent to the Agency over the phone line and is interpreted by a registered nurse. The nurse follows up on any abnormal reading via a phone call. The nurse can then make arrangements for an unscheduled visit or they can notify the physician if necessary. This system allows us to monitor a patient seven days a week, which has proved to be a life saving measure on more than one occasion. We are currently upgrading our whole computer system. Soon our staff will be coming to your homes with their computers. The documentation will be transmitted to our office via secured lines on the same day, thus allowing others access to the information as appropriate.

VNA-Hospice is a member of the National Association of Home Care, National Association of Hospice and Palliative Care, the Home Care Association of New Hampshire, and the New Hampshire Hospice and Palliative Care Association. We are charter member of the Rural Home Care Association in Concord, NH. We actively collaborate with other health care agencies in the region, trying to find ways to meet your health care needs. This continues to be a fiscal challenge as Federal, State and private insurance providers try to limit the amount of money spent on health care. I expect the home health care industry will continue to grow as it is a cost effective way of providing quality health care, and it is often the best place for you to receive care.

Thank you for your continued support and for allowing us to provide you with your home health care services.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn Barba, MS, RN, CHCE  
Executive Director